

## Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 VO-03

SCA-01 IO-10 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 IGA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

/070 W

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R 221030Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4576

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9376

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED FOR ACTION FROM AMCONSUL SONGKHLA  
21 MAY 1975 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 0078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, TH, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN SOUTH THAILAND - IV

REF: SONGKHLA 071

SUMMARY: SONGKHLA STILL COUNTS APPROXIMATELY 750 VIETNAMESE  
REFUGEES IN ITS CONSULAR DISTRICT. LOCAL NAVAL AUTHORITIES  
REPORT THAT ONE BOAT LOAD OF REFUGEES LEFT FOR AUSTRALIA,  
BUT THREE MORE ARRIVED OFF SOUTH CHINA SEA. THE NATIONALIST  
CHINESE ARE PREPARING TO MOVE APPROXIMATELY 80 PERSONS TO  
TAIPEI WITHIN THE WEEK. THESE MOVEMENTS MAY AFFECT THE MORALE  
OF THOSE STAYING. END SUMMARY.

I. NUMBERS AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

1. TO THE BEST OF OUR INFORMATION, THERE ARE NO CONFIRMED  
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CHANGES IN THE NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

FROM THE DESCRIPTION IN REFTEL, EXCEPT FOR SONGKHLA.

2. SONGKHLA NAVAL OFFICIALS SAID THAT THREE BOAT LOADS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES LANDED AT THE STATION MAY 16 AND 17 AFTER TRAVERSING THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. THE BOATS CARRIED OVER ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE, RAISING THE TOTAL IN THE NAVY'S CUSTODY TO 636 PERSONS. OF THAT TOTAL, 217 PERSONS WERE ADULT MALES, 148 ADULT FEMALES, AND 271 CHILDREN.

3. NAVAL AUTHORITIES SAID LATER THAT 98 REFUGEES SAILED OUT OF THE CAMP MAY 18 WITH THE INTENT OF GOING TO AUSTRALIA. THIS DROPPED THE REFUGEE TOTAL IN SONGKHLA TO 538.

## II. REPORT ON CAMBODIA REFUGEES

4. AN AMERICAN TOURIST REPORTED MAY 20 THAT OVER A WEEK AGO THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF KO SAMUI, SURAT THANI PROVINCE, SAID THERE WERE 27 CAMBODIAN REFUGEES ON THE ISLAND.

## III. LOCAL RESPONSE

5. SONGKHLA PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE IMPERCEPTIBLE PROGRESS IN CONSTRUCTING FACILITIES TO ACCEPT THE REFUGEES FROM THE NAVY IN ACCORDANCE WITH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ORDERS.

6. THE CHINESE NATIONALIST CONSUL GENERAL SAID MAY 20 THAT HIS MISSION HAS COMPLETED THE PROCEDURES FOR MOVING 79 REFUGEES OUT OF THE SONGKHLA CAMP. HE EXPECTS TO MOVE THE GROUP TO BANGKOK BY TRAIN AROUND MAY 24 AND CATCH A CHARTERED FLIGHT TO TAIPEI.

## IV. COMMENT

7. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AND TAIWAN BOUND REFUGEES, ONE-THIRD OF THE SONGKHLA REFUGEE POPULATION WILL HAVE LEFT. NO INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES HAVE APPEARED IN THE SOUTH TO HELP THE REFUGEES. REPORTS OF ANTI-VIETNAMESE RIOTS IN NORTHEAST THAILAND UNDERLINE FOR THESE REFUGEES THAT THEY CAN EXPECT LITTLE ASSISTANCE FROM THE RTG. THE FEW MISSIONARIES WHO HAVE INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN THE REFUGEES' FATE CANNOT

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SUBSTITUTE IN THE LONG RUN FOR OBSERVABLE MOVEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THESE FACTORS MAY ERODE MORALE. REUTHER UNQUOTE.  
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## Message Attributes

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